

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 9, 14, 19, and 23 have been amended to clarify the nature of the claimed digital communication line presented in each of these claims without the introduction of any new matter. See, for example, Figures 2A and 2B.

The outstanding Office Action presents an objection to the Title and the Abstract, a rejection of Claims 1 and 3-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Crawford (U.S. Patent No. 5,771,354), and a rejection of Claims 2 and 19-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford in view of Internet Explorer (the well-known web browser copyright 1991-2001).

Turning first to the objection to the title, it is noted that a new title has been presented which is more descriptive of the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the title as not being descriptive is believed to be in order.

With regard to the objection made as to the Abstract, the Abstract has been rewritten in narrative form to be a single paragraph within the range of 50-150 words and to avoid references to what is disclosed. Accordingly, it is believed that the newly presented Abstract fully complies with the stated requirements and, accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is also believed to be in order.

Before discussion the outstanding prior art rejections, it is believed that a brief review of the present invention would be helpful. In this regard, the present invention is directed to a game machine system that allows a user to enjoy games according to supplied game software in their own home at a low cost. The game machine system provides a game

machine that can execute gaming commands, a set top box (STB) that serves as a server device, and a television receiver serving as a display device. These three basic elements of the game machine system are connected to each other via a digital communication line that is external to each of these devices. The STB server receives game software transmitted to it via digital broadcasting services and stores received game software on a hard disk internal thereof. The game machine can then execute a game by accessing the hard disk to read the game software as required. The image generated by the game machine and background image data output from the STB server are supplied to the display television receiver via the digital communication line so that a game image including background can be displayed and the game played.

Turning to the outstanding rejection of Claims 1 and 3-18 as being anticipated by Crawford, it is noted that while Figure 3 of Crawford shows a device 104, internal to online service system 100, characterized in the outstanding Action as a server device and a display monitor 54 characterized in the outstanding Action as a display device and a processor 68 internal of a computer 50 that also has the monitor device 54 that the outstanding Action characterizes as a game executing device, the customer computer internally connects the processor 68 and the monitor 54 such that the requirement of all the claims for the external digital communication line is clearly lacking.

Furthermore, the Action appears to inappropriately attempt to lift the description of the prior art at column 2, lines 15 and 16 and transpose it into the disclosure of the Crawford system. This violates established case law that requires anticipation by a single reference that shows the claimed subject matter in the claimed arrangement. See In re Bond, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990); Ex parte Gould, 6 USPQ2d 1680 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1987); and Ex parte Osmond, 191 USPQ 334 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1973). Clearly, what Crawford teaches

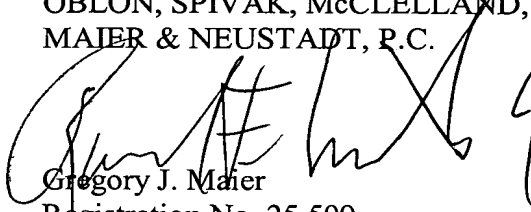
is the interconnection of a home personal computer with a remote server or online server system, which does not correspond to the claimed game system that must have a separate game executing device, a separate server device, and a separate display device all connected to each other by a digital communication line that is external to each of these devices. Accordingly, as the above-noted subject matter is common to each of Claims 1 and 3-18, the rejection of these claims as being anticipated by Crawford is, respectfully, traversed.

Turning to the obviousness rejection of Claims 2 and 19-32, it is noted that the internet explorer browser software is relied upon for the inclusion therein of the Joint Picture Expert Group (JPEG) image format which is alleged in the Action to have been developed at least as early as 1997. Beside the fact that it is improper to rely upon allegations as to dates, there is nothing in this stated reliance that cures any of the deficiencies noted above as to Crawford. Accordingly, as each of Claims 2 and 19-32 also require the above-noted digital communication line that must be external to each of the devices forming the game machine system, this rejection is also traversed as lacking establishment of the required *prima facie* showing of obviousness.

Accordingly, as no other objections or rejections remain outstanding, it is believed that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to this effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE TITLE

Please delete the original title and substitute the following new title:

[GAME MACHINE SYSTEM, SERVE DEVICE, GAME EXECUTING DEVICE,
DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD OF USING GAME]

--GAME MACHINE SYSTEM WITH SERVER DEVICE, DISPLAY DEVICE, AND
GAME EXECUTING DEVICE CONNECTED BY EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION
LINE AND METHOD OF USING THE SYSTEM--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 14, 19, and 23 as follows:

--1. (Amended) A game machine system comprising a server device, a display device, and a game executing device, which are connected to each other via a digital communication line that is external to the server device, the display device, and the game executing device,

said server device comprising:

information storage unit for storing game software information including a game control program and display data used to form a game screen in accordance with said game control program;

game software information acquisition means for acquiring said game software information which is provided by means of broadcasting or via a dedicated communication line and storing the acquired game software information in said information storage unit; and

information transmitting means for reading necessary information from said information storage unit in response to a request received via said digital communication line and transmitting said information over said digital communication line,

said game executing device comprising:

game selection command input means for inputting a game selection command to select a specified game;

a game selection request transmission means for transmitting, over said digital communication line, a game selection request for selection of the game specified by said game selection command input via said game selection command input means;

game control command input means for inputting a game control command;

information request transmission means for transmitting, over said digital communication line, an information request for providing necessary information in accordance with the game control program specified by said game selection command and in accordance with the game control command input via said game control command input means;

information acquisition means for acquiring necessary information from information received via said digital communication line; and

image generation means for generating an image in accordance with game display data included in said information acquired via said information acquisition

means and transmitting the image information representing the generated image over said digital communication line,
said display device comprising:

image information acquisition means for acquiring image information transmitted via said digital communication line; and

image displaying means for displaying an image in according with the image information acquired via said image information acquisition means.

9. (Amended) A server device in a game machine system comprising said server device, a display device, and a game executing device, which are connected to each other via a digital communication line that is external to the server device, the display device, and the game executing device, said server device comprising:

information storage unit for storing game software information including a game control program and display data used to form a game screen in accordance with said game control program;

game software information acquisition means for acquiring said game software information which is provided by means of broadcasting or via a dedicated communication line and storing the acquired game software information in said information storage unit; and

information transmitting means for reading necessary information from said information storage unit in response to a request received via said digital communication line and transmitting said information over said digital communication line.

14. (Amended) A game executing device in a game machine system comprising a server device, a display device, and said game executing device, which are connected to each other via a digital communication line that is external to the server device, the display device, and the game executing device, said game executing device comprising:

game selection command input means for inputting a game selection command to select a specified game;

a game selection request transmission means for transmitting, over said digital communication line, a game selection request for selection of the game specified by said game selection command input via said game selection command input means;

game control command input means for inputting a game control command;

information request transmission means for transmitting, over said digital communication line, an information request for providing necessary information in accordance with the game control program specified by said game selection command and in accordance with the game control command input via said game control command input means;

information acquisition means for acquiring necessary information from information received via said digital communication line; and

image generation means for generating an image in accordance with game display data included in said information acquired via said information acquisition means and transmitting the image information representing the generated image over said digital communication line.

19. (Amended) A display device in a game machine system comprising a server device, said display device, and a game executing device, which are connected to each other via a digital communication line that is external to the server device, the display device, and the game executing device, said display device comprising:

image information acquisition means for acquiring data-compressed image information transmitted from said server device over said digital communication line and also

image information generated, data-compressed, and transmitted over said digital communication line by said game executing device;

decompression means for decompressing the data-compressed image information acquired by said image information acquisition means;

image synthesizing means for synthesizing an image from the image represented by the image information which has been received from said server device and then decompressed by said decompression means and the image represented by the image information which has been generated by said game executing device and then decompressed by said decompression means; and

image displaying means for displaying the image synthesized by said image synthesizing means.

23. (Amended) A method of using a game using a game machine system comprising a server device, a display device, and a game executing device, which are connected to each other via a digital communication line that is external to the server device, the display device, and the game executing device, said method comprising:

a game software information acquisition step in which said server device acquires game software information supplied via broadcasting or a dedicated communication line and stores the acquired game software information in an information storage unit of said server device, said game software information including a game control program and game displaying data used to form a game screen in accordance with said game control program;

an information transmission step in which said server device reads necessary information from said information storage unit in response to a request received via said digital communication line and transmits said information over said digital communication line;

a game selection request transmission step in which said game executing device accepts a game selection command issued by a user to select a specified game and transmits, over said digital communication line, a game selection request for selection of the game specified by said game selection command;

an information request transmission step in which said game executing device accepts a game control command issued by the user and transmits, over said digital communication line, a request for providing necessary information in accordance with the game control program specified by said game selection command and in accordance with said game control command accepted via game control command input means;

an information acquisition step in which said game executing device acquires necessary information from information received via said digital communication line;

an image generation step in which said game executing device generates an image in accordance with game display data included in said information acquired in said information acquisition step and transmits the image information representing the generated image over said digital communication line;

an image information acquisition step in which said image display device acquires image information transmitted via said digital communication line; and

an image displaying step in which said image display device displays an image in accordance with the image information acquired in said image information acquisition step.--

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract paragraph appearing at page 93 of the specification as follows:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[A] The present game machine system [is disclosed which] allows a user to enjoy, at home, games according to supplied game software [information,] at low cost. The game machine system includes a game machine, an STB, and a television receiver, which are connected to each other via a digital bus that is external to them all. The STB receives game software [information] transmitted via digital [satellite] broadcasting and stores the received game software [information] on a hard disk [disposed] in the STB. The game machine executes a game while accessing the hard disk to read the game software [information] as required. An image generated by the game machine and image data such as a background image output from the STB are supplied to the television receiver via the digital bus and a game image is displayed on the screen of the television receiver.--